

# ALASKA AFL-CIO

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VINCE BELTRAMI  
Executive President



BRUCE LUDWIG  
Secretary / Treasurer

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C.  
20554

May 31, 2011

*RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations (WT Docket No. 11-65).*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

For any economy to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a reliable and expanded digital wireless network is necessary. Such an infrastructure would help provide universal access to high-speed broadband, which would then prompt innovation, growth, and job creation in many industries all over the country.


We're not there yet: No such universal broadband access exists, and many areas across Alaska and the rest of the country lack access, basic coverage, and/or reliable service. But I'm writing to you because the proposed T-Mobile/AT&T merger would result in an expanded network and near-universal high-speed broadband access for most of the country, including small and rural communities.

The possibilities and potential that this expanded and enhanced access would bring to families, communities, and classrooms in Alaska would be virtually limitless. In particular, the opportunities that this merger and the resulting advanced communications technology delivers to workers would be overwhelmingly positive. For those who work throughout Alaska in industries like construction, transportation, and oil, better coverage and improved service quality will go a long way to helping them improve efficiency and communication as well as personal safety while traveling to and from job sites.

Furthermore, a post-merger AT&T will need to make major investments to upgrade, enhance, and expand the network infrastructure—and that investment means quality jobs from a company with progressive union policies and a strong pro-worker stance.

Having broadband access available to most of the country would benefit every industry and region, leading to growth and job creation in every field. To help meet our future economic challenges, this merger must move forward. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Vince Beltrami". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end of the last name.

Vince Beltrami  
President  
Alaska AFL-CIO

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker